

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT	Bryan Belisle, Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Anastacia Davis, Ginny Davis, Mike Shepard
MEMBERS ABSENT	Bill Ganzlin
STAFF PRESENT	Mark Meyer and Andy Wietecki
VISITORS	
NOTE TAKER	Mark Meyer

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from January 16, 2020 was moved by Victoria Biehn and seconded by Anastacia Davis.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the February 20, 2020 agenda was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Mike Shepard. Motion carried.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Park Advisory Commission Shirts

The Park Advisory Commission shirts were distributed to the Commission members.

b. Skateboard Equipment for Podvin Park

Andy Wietecki updated the members that he sent an e-mail to Cody Olinger asking him what types of equipment he would like to see added to the skate park at Podvin Park but he has not heard back from Cody yet.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Potential Weyerhauser Park Improvements

Joe Eckerle, the president of the White Bear Baseball Association, talked to the Commission about the ideas that he has for the Babe Ruth Baseball fields. The Baseball Association plans on fundraising by selling sponsorship space at the field, opening a concession stand, and they are also looking into pull tabs in the future. The understanding is the money that is made from anything physically at Weyerhauser Park will be put back into the fields and infrastructure that is

in need of repairs and updates. The goal of the updates is to start an annual tournament in the next two years.

Bryan Belisle asked if baseball is still a growing sport in our community. Joe Eckerle replied that it is for the age groups playing on these fields that have a 75' base line. The fields at Babe Ruth are most heavily used by traveling teams. Andy Wieteki and Joe Eckerle suggested putting money into field #1 and #2 first since these two fields are on City property.

There is currently a City ordinance that states no more than 30 square feet for advertising signage is allowed. Joe Eckerle asked if there is a way to get a variance to be able to put more sponsors up. The Park Advisory Commission seemed enthusiastic about adding more advertising space to generate more dollars. Joe will need to talk to Anne Kane our City Planner to find out more about what the process is in regards to increasing sponsorship signage area. The Commission spent a considerable amount of time asking great questions and talking about the updates needed and discussing the most immediate needs. Andy Wieteki mentioned that the dugouts are in disrepair and should be reconstructed using steel structures that will last for many years to come. Andy also mentioned that the irrigation needs to be improved by moving heads and adding lines where we currently need irrigation. Joe Eckerle would also like scoreboards on fields #1 and #2 and adding black wind screening to the fences to make it look more like a baseball complex. Andy Wieteki suggested to the Commission that we use the \$20,000 budgeted this year for trail improvements to installing a couple new dugout shelters. The Commission was unanimous in support of using the money for new dugouts rather than trail improvements this year.

b) Select a Co-Chair for the Parks Advisory Commission

Andy Wieteki and Mary Meyer suggested that the Commission have a co-chair to run the meeting when the chair is unable to attend. Mike Shepard was nominated by Bryan Belisle with Ginny Davis seconding the motion.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

- a) Andy Wieteki updated the Commission on a meeting between the City and the White Bear Lake Lions Club member Paul Kowitz. The discussion was about the all-abilities playground that the Lions Club is raising funds to build. At this time, the Lions do not have a dollar amount in mind for the project but are hoping for great success in the fundraising campaign they are setting up for this year.

Bryan Belisle asked if there are currently any all-abilities playgrounds around our community. Andy Wieteki responded that he does not believe so and he believes the closest would be Little Canada and Woodbury. Bryan also suggested that the group visit a couple of these playgrounds to see what they look like and talk with the people using the equipment to see what they like best. Anastacia Davis also suggested that the City talk with a focus group to find out what is working for other communities all-abilities playgrounds and what the other communities are seeing as the most popular pieces of equipment. The Commission also decided they would want to go big rather than small on a project with this kind of importance to the community.

- b)** Andy Wietecki updated the Commission about the spring Tree Trust planting. The City sent out 735 letters to residents to opt in for a tree on their boulevard. We have received 84 people opting in which is short of our 150 tree goal (with a February 28th opt in deadline).

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m at City Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Park Commission, the meeting was adjourned. Moved by Bryan Belisle and seconded by Mark Cermak.